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The Louisiana Purchase and the Exploration, Early History and Building of the West. By RIPLEY HITCHCOCK. (Boston: Ginn and Company. 1903. Pp. xxi, 349.)

THE unusual length of title of this small volume is clearly for the specification that restricts. The author "aims only to present a story of purchase and exploration, and the earlier phases of a domain less obviously a unit than the 'Old Northwest' but peculiarly impressive and picturesque." He holds that there was "no single book which tells the story of the West succinctly and includes the work of the Spanish and French pioneers, and also accounts of the various phases of American exploration and of the typical figures and aspects of the Western formative periods". He hopes that his work has "a certain comprehensiveness which will be of convenience and of value to students of the earlier history of the West between the Mississippi and the mountains."

A work with such aims, scope, and purpose must necessarily test the author's powers of condensation, characterization, and articulation, too, — as it is "to afford a continuous and very simple narrative". In insight, judgment of historical values, and perspective Mr. Hitchcock's work is simply admirable. Not so much can be said for the proportion in his treatment. All who wish to consult a guide among the landmarks of the history of the country between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains from the time of Pineda's cruise in the Gulf of Mexico (1519) to the Louisiana Purchase Centennial will find this book most serviceable.

Of the four divisions of the book, Part I., on "The Spanish and French Periods and the Purchase" carries out the purpose of the narrative with the highest degree of skill. Part II., on "The Lewis and Clark Expedition" takes ninety-nine pages, more than one-third of the body of the book. It is well done, but out of all proportion. The "Oregon Country" and the whole Pacific coast might have had a different destiny had it not been for this exploration, but the "Louisiana Purchase" would have been developed much as it was had Lewis and Clark never been sent out. Having gone so minutely into details in Part II., Parts III. and IV., on "The Exploration of the West" and "The Building of the West" respectively are very sketchy. We get good glimpses of the salient point in the vast development comprised under these topics. But why should Lewis and Clark have been given ninety-nine pages in a sketch of the "early history and building of the west", while the rapidly attenuated story of all the subsequent growth is compressed into eighty-seven pages?

The author has generally availed himself of the most recent light on controverted questions. He, however, ascribes the beginning of Jefferson's interest in an overland exploration to conversations with John Ledyard, whom he met in Paris in 1786, whereas Jefferson had proposed such an expedition to George Rogers Clark in 1783. The author gets pretty badly tangled up when he essays details on the trails of the far west, and is a little wide of the mark in locating the discovery of gold in California

"at New Helvetia" (p. 256). These, it is true, are minor matters, but if a venture is made at a specific statement, there is no excuse for inaccuracy.

For the intelligent citizen whose attention has been arrested by the historical significance of the centennial celebration at St. Louis there could be no better help than this book gives. It will also be of service to the young student in getting his bearings in this field, and it has value in challenging a revision of the conclusions of those more deeply read in this part of American history. Appendixes give a copy of the treaty of purchase and a statistical summary of the states and territories formed from the Purchase as they had developed down to 1900. A list of historical events accompanies the showing for each state.

F. G. YOUNG.

A Brief History of Rocky Mountain Exploration, with Especial Reference to the Expedition of Lewis and Clark. By REUBEN GOLD THWAITES. [Expansion of the Republic Series.] (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1904. Pp. ix, 276.)

THE purpose of this volume is to sketch the most notable explorations by which the western half of the continent was made known to the world in "the long stretch of fruitful years, from Balboa's crossing in Darien to the completion of the transcontinental railways in the United States". Mr. Thwaites frankly makes the Lewis and Clark expedition the central feature of his book, devoting to it seven of his fourteen chapters. The exploration of the Pacific coast, and a summary of French and English explorations from the east prior to 1800, receive sixty-two pages, and form the background of the main story. The last four chapters, dealing among other topics with Astoria, Pike, and Long, the Rocky Mountain fur-trade, and the settlement of Oregon and California, are assigned sixty-four pages, leaving one hundred twenty-five pages to be distributed among the other seven chapters. The work might therefore without serious impropriety be styled a history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, with some account of prior and subsequent explorations.

As an account of the famous expedition of 1804-1806 it is instinct with a vital interest rarely discovered even in books of adventure. Nothing more felicitous has come from Mr. Thwaites's gifted pen. Not alone the youth, for whom the book is primarily intended, but the mature student as well, can profitably make use of this charming narrative of exploration.

The three chapters treating of earlier discoveries are also very effectively written and add considerably to the value of the book. But for some reason the concluding section, embracing Chapters XI.-XIV., seems to have commanded the author's devotion far less perfectly than the other parts. Here we find a number of erroneous statements and a few serious misconceptions, which mar the general excellence of the book. For example, Pattie is called "the first white man to cross the